



## Sudan rebels pledge relief support

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — Sudanese rebels have "strongly and emphatically" endorsed a massive United Nations relief effort to combat starvation in the southern Sudan, a U.N. official said Saturday.

Richard S. Reid, regional director of the United Nations Children's Fund for the Middle East and North Africa, said rebel leaders "are now impatient" for the relief effort to begin.

The UNICEF official flew to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa from Amman, Friday and spent the day meeting with officials of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

It was Reid's third meeting in seven days with rebel leaders and he told the Associated Press later that "we have the political green lights flashing unmistakably for all to see."

"Let us get the show on the road," Reid added. "It is time for the United Nations and the relief donor governments and agencies to start the relief action, to couple words with deeds."

Reid's talks with the rebels marked a major breakthrough in

protracted negotiations between the United Nations, the Sudanese government and the insurgents.

The United Nations had earlier urged the rebels to accept a six-month ceasefire offered by the government, but that was rejected as unacceptable.

As an alternative to a ceasefire, the United Nations proposed that both sides in the 6-year-old civil war agree to safeguard "emergency corridors" for at least a month.

Under the corridor plan, the United Nations and donor governments and agencies plan to transport about 100,000 metric tons of food, medicine and other relief supplies to southern Sudan before heavy summer rains begin in May.

The supplies are to be transported through eight corridors, or routes, using barges, trucks, railroads and airplanes. The relief

will move from Sudan's northern capital, Khartoum, and from the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.

Reid said hundreds of thousands of people face famine and starvation in the southern Sudan and relief must be delivered before the start of the rainy season "if we are to avoid the catastrophe of last year in which an estimated 250,000 people died."

He said UNICEF last week began transferring some of its most experienced relief personnel to Khartoum and Kenya's capital of Nairobi to bolster the operation. "Seasoned UNICEF staff members have so far been brought to the Sudan operation from China, Afghanistan and Lebanon and more will be coming from other areas of the map," he said.

In Washington, a U.S. official, calling famine-relief efforts in Sudan a "race against time," Friday urged nations around the world to do more to support an aid operation organised during a break in Sudan's civil war.

Reid said the Sudanese government's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and the rebels' Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency would assist in the distribution of the aid.

"Everybody wants peace, but peace will be a hollow victory if the people for whom peace is the



Sudan's hungry children in line for food as the famine clock ticks faster.

goal are not alive because we can't deliver the food in time to save them," said Julia Taft, director of the State Department's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### 50,000 homeless in S. Yemen floods

NICOSIA (R) — Floods killed five people, destroyed 400 homes and made 50,000 people homeless in central South Yemen and its eastern coastal plain, Aden Radio said. It said a survey showed a further 500 homes had been partly damaged as torrential rain since Sunday flooded Hadramaut, Al Mahrah and Abyan governorates. A man swept away Thursday night brought to five the number of people killed as torrents raged across South Yemen's normally arid eastern coastal plain, the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported Friday. South Yemen, which has a population of about 2.5 million and ranks as one of the world's poorest nations, has appealed for international help for victims of the disaster.

### Abu Dhabi departs 47 AIDS victims

ABU DHABI (R) — The Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi deported 47 expatriates diagnosed as having the AIDS virus in 1988, a health ministry official said Saturday. Of those deported because of positive tests for AIDS, 18 were Arabs, 15 Pakistanis and nine Indians, he added.

### Somalia rebels claim they hold north

LONDON (AP) — Rebels fighting the Somali government claimed Friday they hold almost a third of the strategically important region of the Horn of Africa and are closing on two major northern cities. "For some time we have been controlling 85 per cent of the northern region, which is about one-third of Somalia, and in the past four weeks, we have been closing on the main cities in the north," Abdi Al Rahman Ali, a member of the rebel Somali National Movement told the AP in London, where he is based. Rebels were fighting government troops on the outskirts of Hargeisa and Burao in northwest Somalia and expect to take both cities "very soon," he said.

### Libya denies terrorism charge

ROME (R) — Libya's ambassador to Italy Friday reiterated Tripoli's denials of involvement in terrorism after Washington warned of a possible plot to hijack an American-owned airliner in Europe. Ambassador Abdul Rahman Shalhah called a news conference after airports in Europe increased security in response to the warning, which did not specify a group, country or time. "Libya, I repeat, does not employ terrorism. If we are opposed to anyone we say so and take responsibility," he said. On April 15, 1986, U.S. bombers raided Tripoli in retaliation for alleged Libyan support of terrorism. "If there are other accidents this year, even road accidents, I would not exclude some people again blaming Libya," Shalhah said. He said Washington periodically accused Libya of supporting terrorism because Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi "doesn't bow down and do what the United States would like."

### Green Party member linked to Qadhafi

BONN (R) — A parliamentary deputy for West Germany's radical Greens Party is active in a new Liechtenstein-based foundation with links to Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, a Munich newspaper said Friday. The Sueddeutsche Zeitung said Albert Mechtersheimer, a Greens spokesman on disarmament policy, was believed to have acted as a lobbyist for Qaddafi. The newspaper said Mechtersheimer took part in the initial meeting of the M.A.G. Foundation for Peace and Solidarity in Zurich, Switzerland, in December. The foundation, based in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, was financially supported by Qaddafi with \$10 million from a Swiss Bank account, it said in a report released ahead of Saturday's publication. The Greens deputy said the foundation was set up to improve Libya's links with the "international community of nations," according to the Sueddeutsche Zeitung. "A kind of prestostroki is also occurring in Libya," Mechtersheimer was quoted as saying. "One must prevent Qaddafi from being pushed into a corner where the Americans would like to keep him."

### U.S. spy may get Israeli passport

TEL AVIV (AP) — Interior Minister Arye Dery was quoted Friday as saying he may consider approving Israeli citizenship for Jonathan Pollard, a former U.S. Navy analyst convicted of selling military secrets to Israel. Pollard's parents, Morris and Mildred Pollard, met with Dery Thursday and were told that public opinion in the United States toward their son was changing, Israeli newspapers reported. "If the circumstances change, we will consider giving Israeli citizenship to Pollard," Dery told the independent Ma'ariv Daily. He declined to elaborate, the paper said. The ministry spokeswoman could not be reached for comment. The Interior Ministry is responsible for immigration. Jonathan Pollard, a civilian analyst, was arrested in November 1985 and is serving a life sentence for selling top-secret military documents to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, has been jailed for five years for conspiracy. "We as Jews are obligated to do everything in our power and to work for the release of the Pollard couple," Dery told the Yediot Achronot newspaper.

### Iraq bans men working in health clubs

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government has banned men from working in women's health clubs and ordered owners to fire their male staff immediately, the ruling Baath Party newspaper said Saturday. The paper, Al Thawra, said that the Interior Ministry ordered the ban "in order to protect morality and women's modesty." Iraq last year banned men from working in women's hairdressing salons for similar reasons. "The practice of slimming the new society, and our traditional values," the paper quoted a ministry spokesman as saying.



## Frightened Lebanese forget all in shelling

BEIRUT (R) — "Something is missing," cried Samira Hajj fleeing from a salvo of shells raining on the streets around her Beirut home.

"I have my children, jewellery and make-up... oh my God, I left my husband behind."

Minutes later, Samira's husband, Mounir, joined his family at a bomb shelter in East Beirut wearing only his underwear and his wife's coloured slippers.

After almost 14 years of civil strife in which 130,000 people have died, many Lebanese have lost their ability to cope with the pressures of war.

Lebanese say the most frightening moments are those when fighting erupts and artillery shells pour down on residential areas.

Panic-stricken people run for shelters or other hideaways abandoning anything they are doing.

"...Some mothers have even forgotten their babies," said Leila Nakouz, a psychology professor.

With others and gain the strength to face danger.

The shelling and violence does not appear to have dented the Lebanese reputation for business acumen and apartments for sale, complete with bomb shelters are readily available.

Fear is reflected in many different ways.

"I just like telling jokes when shells fall nearby and can't stop talking," said William Mdaouar, a 30-year-old dentist.

Quarrels often erupt and the simplest issues provoke angry responses.

The abrupt shutting of a door and a loud bang can easily frighten people, while thunder, mistaken for shelling, sends them rushing to shelters or seeking safety under the nearest table or bed," said May Haber, a university English teacher.

Nakouz said bomb shelters were the only places where people were able to share their fear

"People insist on knowing all about the shelters of the apartments they are buying. It could mean their lives," said one engineer.

Shelters are often divided into small suites each containing a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom reserved for owners of apartments in multi-storey buildings.

Most shelters, even in poor areas, look like small furnished apartments with beds, sofas, closets, televisions and occasionally a video set.

### TASS to open office in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS plans to open a second Gulf office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a Soviet embassy spokesman said Saturday. He said that the bureau would open as soon as veteran TASS correspondent Victor Lebedev, who is already in the UAE, received press accreditation. TASS has an office in Kuwait. He said the move was intended to boost Gulf coverage. Moscow has diplomatic relations with Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the UAE.

## Rebel threat seems remote in major Afghan cities

By Hugh Pain  
Reuter

ates, onions and cauliflowers and oranges — for those who can afford them.

Only the bread queues — or rather bread bumbles, as Afghans have never learnt the Western art of queuing — suggest a food shortage. Only the sparse traffic, consisting mainly of old buses belching low-octane fumes, tells that fuel is in short supply.

A 220-gram (8 oz) piece of bread costs six Afghans (three cents) at the government controlled price — worth waiting for in one of the world's poorest countries when the free market rate is 20 Afghans (10 cents).

Petrol costs 300 Afghans (\$1.50) a litre, but this is better than last week's 400 Afghans (\$2), and shows that supplies are getting through both by road and in the huge Soviet transports that daily fly in from Tashkent. The flights carry flour according to officials and rocket fuel according to reporters recently.

His remarks reflected a growing confidence among supporters of Najibullah's Moscow-backed government a month after Soviet troops completed their withdrawal.

There was a relaxed mood in Mazar-E-Sharif, the major urban centre of the north and only 60 kilometres from the Soviet border.

Life appeared normal, the 200,000 population swollen by pilgrims attending the Shrine of Hazrat Ali, cousin of the Prophet Mohammad.

Water was running, electricity worked and food and fuel were in far more plentiful supply than in Kabul, though mainly to easy access to Soviet forces.

But huge depots of armoured vehicles and army equipment stood ready outside the town and at least two squadrons of MiG-21 fighters

were dispersed around the airport.

There was no chance of a serious Mujahedeen attack on the city, he said, adding he strongly denied reports that it would become the seat of government if Kabul was attacked heavily.

Three rockets fell on the city a week ago, but Ansari said the rebels — of the Hezb-I-Islami (Hekmatyar) and Hezb-I-Islami (Khalis) groups — had fired rockets and shells but their attempt at capturing the city had been repulsed.

"I can assure you that Jalalabad might be razed to the ground, but they could never be able to occupy it," he said. Ansari said that in Mazar-E-Sharif 7,000 armed party members were ready to aid regular forces and volunteer civilian self-defence groups had also sprung up.

Referring to the fierce battle this month for the eastern city of Jalalabad, Ansari said the rebels had fired rockets and shells but their attempt at capturing the city had been repulsed.

"I can assure you that Jalalabad might be razed to the ground, but they could never be able to occupy it," he said.

Ansari said that in Mazar-E-Sharif 7,000 armed party members were ready to aid regular forces and volunteer civilian self-defence groups had also

the government on Feb. 19 after the rebel offensive (Sygma photo)

Party (PDPA), acknowledged that the party was not popular in all regions but insisted a solution to the Afghan conflict was impossible if it did not play a role.

"In the last 10 years the PDPA has shown it is a force, and, now the Soviet troops have gone, it is a force alone," he said.

"There were so many comments that when the Soviet troops left they (the Mujahedeen) will be able to occupy Jalalabad and then Kabul, but they could not do it," he said.

### DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman and Aqaba: 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Musa Bashir ..... 615487  
Dr. Joseph Inash ..... 778560  
Dr. Hisham Abu Arqoub ..... 695122  
Dr. Deoud Samhour ..... 689535  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 778336  
Al Asqa pharmacy ..... 620765  
Nafrouti pharmacy ..... 622072  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 646495  
Shimeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The country will be affected by a depression now centred south of Greece. Therefore, a drop in temper-

ature will occur and clouds will appear at different altitudes: rainfall is expected in the evening. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman ..... 6/17  
Aqaba ..... 14/25  
Deserts ..... 5/19  
Jordan Valley ..... 12/24

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Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 646495  
Shimeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussain Medical Centre ..... 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann ..... 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Ann ..... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362

Malha, J. Ann ..... 636140

Palestine Shimeisani ..... 664171/4

Shimeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 685845

Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 6672279

The Islamic, Abdal ..... 666127/37

Al-Abi, Abdal ..... 664164

Al-Iman, Al-Muasher ..... 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Arshaf ..... 775111/26

## Queen Noor visits Wadi Araba



AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday toured the major populated areas in Wadi Araba, where she listened to briefings on the facilities available and the citizens' requests for services aimed at developing these areas.

Wadi Araba district, which covers an area of 160 kilometres in diameter and has a population of approximately 4,000, has 2 main villages within its borders, Al Rahma and Al Reesha.

At Al Rahma village, Queen Noor visited the school run by the Jordanian Armed Forces, where she met with students of the elementary and preparatory levels and inspected the services at the school.

The Queen also met with the village notables and discussed with them ways of providing the village with services and income-generating projects which would ensure their healthy settlement in the area.

Queen Noor also visited Al Reesha village where she inspected the local medical centre, a girl's school and the social development centre, currently under construction.

In both villages the Queen met with the ladies of the area and

discussed with them their immediate needs and inspected the local handicrafts exhibits and ways of developing these trades in cooperation with Noor Al Husseini Foundation.

At Al Reesha, the Queen was briefed by Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, on the authority's agricultural and water projects in the area as well as ways of providing future generations with a proper educational and health facilities.

Queen Noor was accompanied by Minister of Social Development Dr. Fawaz Touqan.

## Indian trade team arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and India Monday open talks designed to further boost economic and trade cooperation and look into prospects of launching joint ventures.

The Indian side to the talks is headed by the under-secretary of the Indian ministry of trade who arrived here Saturday at the head of his team. The Jordanian side will be led by Ministry of Industry's Secretary General Mabam-

mad Saqqa who was at the airport to welcome the Indian delegation.

In the four-day meeting the two sides will review ways of increasing the volume of exchanged trade and will look into the prospect of increasing Jordanian exports of phosphate, potash and cement to Indian markets. According to official statistics India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphate and potash

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**CONDOLENCES:** His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited Al Mufti family conveying condolences on the death of Sa'id Al Mufti. The King ordered that the deceased be buried at the Royal Cemetery. The King was accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Chief of the Royal Court Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The prime minister earlier announced the death of Sa'id Al Mufti. The deceased, who passed away Saturday afternoon, had held the post of prime minister, parliament speaker, parliament member as well as senior government posts (Petra).

**GOOD WISHES:** His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to Bangladeshi President Mohammad Ershad on his country's national day. He wished the president continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for Bangladesh and its people. The King also sent a cable of good wishes to the King of Malaysia Mahinoud Iskandar Al Haj Sultan on the anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers.

**LOAN:** The Council of Ministers Saturday endorsed a \$6 million loan agreement signed with the European Investment Bank. This loan will be used in financing Jordan Electric Authority projects (Petra).

**VIOLATIONS:** A meeting was held Saturday at the Prime Ministry to discuss violations reported by the Audit Bureau. These violations are related to the Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs, and the Environment as well as the Telecommunications Corporation and the municipal councils of Mafrqa, Jerash, and Jiza (Petra).

**SENTENCED:** The military court has sentenced Kamel Ali Hussein Abdullah Mustafa to three years imprisonment and the payment of JD 500 fine for the acquisition of drugs. The military governor endorsed the sentence (Petra).

**LOANS:** The Cities and Villages Development Bank last month gave 20 loans totalling JD 1.7 million to municipal and village councils in the Kingdom. A bank spokesman said that loans for new income generating projects totalled JD 800,000, accounting for nearly 47.6 per cent of the total volume of loans (Petra).

**STATISTICS:** The board of trustees of the Arab Institute for Research and Training in Statistics opens a meeting here Sunday with the participation of heads of statistics departments in the Arab World. The four-day meeting will discuss the statistics situation in the Arab World through a review of statistics operations in a number of Arab states, the role of the Arab Institute in developing Arab countries' statistics organisations, and training of Arab personnel in statistics-related affairs (Petra).

**DEVELOPMENT:** A general meeting was held at Tafleah in southern Jordan Saturday to review progress in implementing development projects in Tafleah Governorate. Projects executed in the past five years and others planned for the coming two years were reviewed at the meeting which was chaired by the deputy governor and attended by heads of municipal councils and development council members (Petra).

**SCHOOLS:** Construction of schools in Balqa Governorate for the 1989-1990 scholastic year cost JD 3,637,779 (Petra).

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- \* An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- \* An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jaloos at Alia Art Gallery.
- \* An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hashemi Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh.
- \* An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- \* An art exhibition by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn.
- \* A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- \* An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan.

#### LECTURE

- \* A lecture by Butheina Jardaneh, in which she will compare the British institutions that she visited recently with similar Jordanian organisations and will assess the state of women's affairs in the Kingdom, at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

#### FILM

- \* A feature film entitled "Bye Bye Birdie" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

## Jordan, Morocco open trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between the Maghreb Union which groups five North African Arab states, including Morocco, and the Arab Cooperation Council which includes Jordan was discussed at a meeting here Saturday by the joint Jordanian-Moroccan Economic Committee.

The committee which opened meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Friday, Saturday discussed among other things increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Morocco, opening trade centres in Amman and Rabat, holding industrial fairs in either capital to promote the sale of national products as well as cooperation in transport and industry.

The two sides have discussed the increase of the volume of trade to \$45 million annually, facilitating the issuance of import licences for merchants and cooperation between private sector companies in both countries. The Jordanian side sought to promote the sale of Jordanian phosphate in the markets of the Maghreb Union countries, cooperation in maritime shipping, exchanging

expertise in industrial affairs and the transfer of modern technology.

Minister of Industry Hamdi Tabbaa who leads the Jordanian side to the meeting emphasised the need to introduce measures that can help facilitate the flow of national products between the two countries.

The Moroccan Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Azmani said that the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union will pave the ground for greater Arab measures of cooperation in economic and trade and industrial fields.

Later, Tabbaa and the Moroccan minister visited the Sahab Industrial City and inspected different industrial businesses and were briefed by Dr. Fayed Suheimati, the director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation on the current industrial situation.

The Moroccan minister was briefed on the incentives given to foreign investors and the facilities provided by the Jordanian law to promote investments.

الجمعية السنوية ل منتدى الفكر العربي تدوة التعددية السياسية في الوطن العربي



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses the 6th annual meeting of the Arab

Thought Forum at the Royal Cultural Centre (Petra photo).

## Prince Hassan addresses Arab Thought Forum:

## Nation on right track

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said that the Arab World accomplished great achievements in the past year at the regional and international levels, as well as on the domestic front.

delighted, despite the difficulties encountered in the first few years, Prince Hassan noted.

The first few years in the life of the ATF, he added, were marked by divisions within the Arab World which witnessed recession and retreat on all fronts.

The Arab Thought Forum, he said, was established in 1981 to be a forum for exercising free dialogue in a democratic spirit, to discuss issues of concern to the present and the future of the Arab World, Prince Hassan said in a speech to the Arab Thought Forum (ATF's) general assembly.

He said that the proclamation

of the Palestinian state and the commencement of the U.S.-PLO dialogue as well as the recent proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council and the Maghreb Union were also among the main achievements of the Arab World.

In addition, the ATF which is

now entering its ninth year has

realised accomplishments of

which one can feel proud and

delighted, despite the difficulties

encountered in the first few

years, Prince Hassan noted.

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and retreat on all fronts.

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present and the future of the

Arab World, Prince Hassan ; dde6.

"We are looking with hope to

the ninth year and the progra-

mes which the ATF will carry out

to serve the Arab Nation that is

now witnessing a new awakening

at all fronts," Prince Hassan con-

cluded.

The delegates later endorsed

the final accounts of the past year

and a programme of activities for

1989.

### Frozen chicken available

## Ministry ensures food supplies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply has floated a tender for the purchase of 40,000 tonnes of rice in order to make this commodity available in big quantities for the citizens of Jordan, Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh announced Saturday.

The mission aims at promoting post-graduate work, particularly PhDs, since "advanced degrees are not available in all subjects in Jordanian universities," said Davies.

He added that some Jordanian universities are "upgrading their staff" in order to start PhD programmes in some courses.

the coming month and the ministry will open the way for the private sector to import additional amounts of frozen meat.

A consignment of 1,250 tonnes of frozen meat bought from New Zealand is due here shortly after the Eid Al Fitr feast at the beginning of May, the minister noted.

Referring to the basic com-

modities, Tarawneh said that the Kingdom has sufficient amounts of sugar and rice; and 20,000 tonnes of sugar are due to arrive here by mid-April. Moreover, the minister said, the private sector has been allowed to import fresh and frozen fish from Oman, the Gulf states and a number of foreign countries.

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### Valuable opportunity

IT is no doubt that the summit of King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ismailia would serve as an added valuable opportunity to put the Arab house in perfect order in preparation for the next round in the peace process in the Arab World. It goes without saying that an enhanced degree of co-operation and synchronisation between Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), prior to the visit to Washington by His Majesty King Hussein and President Mubarak, would constitute one of the principal factors on which an operational peace process can be based. As all three continue to work on the same wavelength, a summit now would go a long way in consolidating and fortifying the level of cooperation between them. The more the Arab parties directly concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflicts speak with one tongue and in the same manner and credibly their stance on these issues would become.

It is important that the recent visit of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia to Jordan and Egypt, the visits to Baghdad and Cairo by King Hussein and the effort by Saudi Arabia to add muscle to the Arab League's efforts of the Arab World to resolve its internal conflicts as they are in the Gulf or in the Middle East. The exchange of views on the highest level is very important, they can never be a substitute for the summits which the Arab World has been unable to call for so long. It is unfortunate that the Arab parties are not able to hold their much awaited summit in the wake of His Majesty King Hussein and President Mubarak in the U.S. In the course of the next few days, the non-fulfilment of the Arab promise to hold a summit would weaken the Arab resolve to settle the various conflicts that the Arab World is facing in these contemporary times. Worst still, the meeting of such a summit would send the wrong signal to the East and the West, including Israel, that all is well in the Arab house. The urgency of an Arab summit is manifested by the fact that there has been a significant shift, which, Israel in favour of entering into a dialogue with the PLO. This is not to mention the valuable contributions that appeared in Washington vis-à-vis the peace in the conflict and the role of the PLO in the quest for a permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflicts. These developments would naturally warrant a positive Arab response.

Until the much-needed Arab summit materialises, the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts are duty-bound to maximise the best that they could by convening mini-summits with the avowed hope that soon after the grand Arab summit would be called to order.

### LEADING PRESS EDITORIALS

THE Jordan Times received a gift from Israel on the 15th anniversary of the Camp David agreement and the gift was a hostile media campaign on the Egyptian government for its pan-Arab stand, and on 24th Feb (Saturday). The paper said that the Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's rights and the uprising, its involvement in the Arab Cooperation Council and its continued support for the PLO have prompted the Israelis to launch a campaign through its media against the Egyptian government. The Israeli attitude towards Egypt, the paper now claims, is a clear indication of Israel's aggressive attitude towards the Arab world, and is part of an Israeli drive to destabilise the Egyptian government and to force it to deviate from its policies. The paper said that Egypt, which joined the Arab Cooperation Council, is determined to go ahead with its policies and to back the Palestinian people's rights in their struggle against terrorism or intimidation or blackmail. The paper can only say, may affect this national stand.

THE Jordan Times daily warns the Arabs not to be over optimistic in the search for a solution for the Middle East. The paper said that Israel's goal is to achieve military parity with the Arab world, to strengthen and back the Palestinian movement, and to force the Arabs to sit with them at the regional inter-Arab peace conference. The writer says that the Arabs are not enough, and can by no means help the region with its survival rights. What weapons the Arabs have are not augmented to match the Israeli arsenal on the ground, and the situation which is going on in the occupied territories should be backed with all their might and interest in ending the problem and the writer adds. He says that Israel is avoiding confrontation with the PLO and the leaders of the intifada because they are in fact in a state of war with its forces and who are in the presence of Israel in the occupied territories. He calls on the Arabs to arm themselves and be ready for any confrontation with the Israeli at the diplomatic and the military levels before building any unwarranted optimism for a solution.

THE Jordan Times daily referred to the on-going efforts at the regional inter-Arab peace conference, it said, are being met with more and more impatience and obstinacy by Israel. The paper said that the Israeli decision to allocate \$10 million for new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories reflects Israel's real evil intentions and its continued pursuit of aggression and occupation of the occupied territories. The paper said the situation paves the way for a new wave of settlements building on the Arab lands and demonstrates Israel's total disregard to the world community's condemnation and a real challenge for the Arabs in general and the Palestinian people in particular. Indeed, one can consider this as a challenge to the Arabs directed to the Bush administration to force it to tell Israel to refrain from doing anything that could escalate tension, and which is now preparing for a meeting with Shimon Peres over the future of the occupied territories. The paper noted, it said unless Shimon is confronted by a strong stand on the part of the Bush administration, American efforts will go in vain and the aspired peace will remain as a dream.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

## Services sector creates jobs, exports

The services sector does not need too much defence, at least in the present circumstances. It is the sector most able to create maximum jobs at minimum capital cost. It is also the sector where Jordan has a comparative advantage as a result of its excellent manpower. In view of the unemployment of most production factors, the expansion in the production of services would not be at the expense of the production of commodities.

Nevertheless, I shall defend the services sector from a completely different view point. I argue that the volume of services produced in Jordan is not excessive even though it makes over 63 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). The reason is that a substantial portion of the services was produced for export and not for domestic consumption. I previously pointed that out but never quantified the export element of the services output.

Going back to the actual figures of 1987, the most recent year with available statistics, we find that the total value of services produced in Jordan reached JD 921 million at factor cost, an amount that forms 63.6 per cent of GDP, a percentage which, I admit, looks too high at the first glance.

However, a thorough examination of the balance of payments reveals that the value of services sold to tourists were JD 196.4

million, the price of land and air transport rendered to non-Jordanians and paid in foreign exchange was JD 117 million. The cost of insurance and freight services provided for external customers was JD 20.9 million. That is over and above other a variety of services produced in Jordan and consumed by non-Jordanians in the amount of JD 99 million. Thus the total services produced by the Jordanian economy for export was JD 433 million, or 47 per cent of all services produced in Jordan. The remaining services which were meant for local consumption are down to 33.7 per cent and not 63.6 per cent of GDP.

I have to stress here that the exported services that were taken into account in the above analysis are only the services produced within Jordan for export to non-residents. I did not count all services listed in the credit side of the balance of payments. Specifically I excluded the services of Jordanian expatriates and the resulting remittances, and also excluded the official transfers, i.e., Arab aid, although remittances and transfers are, in a way, exported services.

The conclusion is that the services in Jordan are not inflated as those who do not go beyond the figures and dead statistics may think.

On the other hand, the classification of goods into commodities and services in both the gross domestic product and the balance of payments would indicate that the aggregate expenditure on consumption and investment in Jordan reached JD 1,773.9 million in 1987. Among this amount only JD 641.7 million represent services, after adding all imported services and subtracting all exported services. The services ratio is thus 36.1 per cent while the balance represents commodities.

It remains to be pointed out that the distinction between commodities and services is not clear nor meaningful in most cases. Is medicine, for instance, a commodity or part of health services? Is the television a commodity or a cultural and recreational service? Is the telephone set a commodity or a communication service? Do trucks represent commodities or transport service? Is the foreign know-how a service, even if it was used as input in the production of a commodity? Finally, is the dollar earned from exporting a service different from the dollar received from exporting a commodity?

Perhaps there is some imbalances here and there in the Jordanian economy, but the high ratio of services in both production and consumption is not one of these imbalances.

### No real opening in sight for Albania

By Dusan Stojanovic  
The Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania — A popular local joke says Albanian pessimists are learning Russian, while optimists study English.

However, a newly erected gold-plated statue of Communist Albania's late leader, Enver Hoxha, seems intended to remind residents not to harbour illusions or hopes that this isolated country will veer either to the West or East soon.

The gleaming statue on Tirana's main square and Hoxha's ultramodern memorial nearby, both unveiled last October, symbolise the country's continuing rigid isolationism, diplomats in Tirana said.

Since World War II, Albania, with a population of about 3 million, has been sealed off by Europe's harshest regime.

Diplomats interviewed in Tirana maintain, however, that most Albanians, who cannot travel abroad, are generally well-informed and knowledgeable of what is going on in the world and that many hope for an end to the isolation.

Under Ramiz Alia, who took over after Hoxha's death four years ago, Albania has cautiously expanded political ties with several Western countries, including establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany.

However, Albania's overall trade figures have not increased appreciably, and the number of foreigners allowed into the country has remained constant at only about 10,000 annually.

"We don't need tourism to make profits," said Hajrje Shilegi, an official of Albturist, the country's sole, state-run tourist agency.

"We like our foreign friends to see our country, but we have no plans to expand tourism," she told the Associated Press.

Albania's constitution expressly forbids taking out foreign loans and says imports should not exceed exports. These structures are generally blamed for the stagnating trade figures.

Obstacles to admitting foreign tourists into the country seem to be of a different nature.

One diplomat in Tirana speculated that the government fears a negative influence on the local population if an influx of Western tourists were to show "their affluence to the poorest people in Europe."

Recent foreign visitors to Albania claim that if this country of beautiful mountain vistas and long sandy beaches opened its borders, it immediately would become a European tourist haven.

"Alia is hiding behind Hoxha's legacy, and everything he does is officially attributed to our late leader's isolationist road," said Albiani in Tirana, who approached a Western reporter and claimed to belong to an underground dissident movement.

There was no way to verify the claim. But if such a previously unheard-of movement exists, it would be a sign of public dissatisfaction with the leadership's consistent failure to provide better living standards.

Europe's poorest and least-developed country already is facing severe shortages of basic food-stuff and consumer goods, exacerbated by the most severe winter drought in 40 years.

"Before drinking water, everyone should remember that it must be conserved as much as possible," say numerous billboards on Tirana streets.

Long lines of customers can be seen waiting patiently on Tirana sidewalks for items such as shaving cream and thread, in front of stores that don't allow shoppers inside but sell their wares through small windows in order to avoid a crush of buyers.

No stray dogs or cats are seen on the streets of this city of about 300,000 people. One Albanian explained: "We cannot afford to

throw away food and feed strays."

As Tirana's street lights are gradually extinguished to comply with official rationing of electricity, the capital becomes shrouded in virtual darkness, Hoxha's fabled museum and his down-town statue its sole beacons.

The museum, featuring mementos from Hoxha's life, is Albania's most luxurious tourist attraction by far, a local guide said.

The cone-shaped marble building — decorated inside with brass fittings, thick carpeting and the latest imported video equipment — already has become a shrine for thousands who visit it daily.

Despite Albania's isolationism, its inhabitants are avid listeners to foreign radio programmes, which have never been jammed. Reception of Yugoslav, Greek and Italian television programmes also is fairly good in most of the country.

Albanians used to hide antennas under their rooftops. When Hoxha died after a 41-year rule, people gradually became bolder. Now, forests of antennas have sprouted atop the decrepit concrete apartment blocks where most Albanians live.

The Sigurimi, Albania's secret police, still carefully watch Albanians' contacts with foreigners. But a group of foreigners who visited recently found themselves the objects of friendly waves and occasional questions from local citizens.

A recent soccer match between Albania and England, a man speaking perfect British-accented English climbed into a bus earmarked for foreign correspondents, asking for a BBC radio sports commentator.

"I'm so glad to finally meet you in person — my friends and I have been listening to your commentaries for so many years," he told the reporter, claiming that the BBC's world service had a wide audience in Albania.

Despite the conspicuous economic hardships, Tirana maintains a pleasant and rather pristine simplicity. The sunny Mediterranean climate seems to contribute to a more relaxed atmosphere than is usually encountered in other Eastern European countries.

Even in winter, the weather in this small capital remains balmy and warm in daytime, with crystal-clear air — the result of the lack of industry and almost no traffic. Albanians are not allowed to own private cars.

ARENA's electoral advances over the past year sealed the gradual decline of the U.S.-backed

### Djibouti grapples with Somali refugees

By David Ress  
Reuter

DJIBOUTI — The civil war in neighbouring northern Somalia is sending a flood of refugees pouring into Djibouti.

Thousands of refugees have already fled to this small desert nation since the war heated up last June — and more are coming now.

"The people on the streets, the beggars, they are the Somalis ... for the past two or three weeks, they have been coming," said Mousa Warsama, a coordinator of the local Red Crescent Society.

Interior Minister Khaireddine Hared told Reuters there were now tens of thousands of Somalis in Djibouti who had fled the war.

The rebels captured Burao, one of the three main towns in northern Somalia, and occupied most of the northern capital of Hargeisa for several weeks before they were driven out in mid-August.

Hargeisa was flattened by the heavy fighting, 400,000 refugees fled south into Ethiopia, and several thousand more made their way to Djibouti.

Apart from the refugees there are also many people inside Somalia who have been displaced by the war.

"How many other countries would be ready to have on their soil refugees amounting to one-twentieth of their population?" the interior minister said.

Somali refugees arriving here

bring stories of what appears to be the start of a major dry season army offensive.

"It reminds me very much of the situation just before last June," said one Djibouti government official, who spoke on condition he was not identified.

At that time, the rebel Somali National Movement, which had been fighting a low-level guerrilla war in the north since 1981, launched a major offensive.

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"We are a refugee camp, you know. I have six people staying with me," said Olad, a Somali exile who has a house in Djibouti's industrial district.

The United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) representative in Africa, Alain-Albert Peters, told Reuters in Addis Ababa recently

that there was little prospect of an early repatriation of the Somali refugees in Ethiopia.

The UNHCR has suggested Djibouti grant refugee status to the Somalis who are here, but Foreign Minister Moumin Bahadon Farah said the government feared such a move would clear the way for their long-term settlement in Djibouti.

They said these skirmishes seem to be the start of a struggle for control of the desert region's few permanent water sources.

The exiles said the government is already trying to bring the area's nomads behind its lines, where the water is, in a bid to consolidate its hold on the north. If, instead, the nomads come to Djibouti, most will probably end up staying with members of their extended families.

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### Who is the boss in El Salvador?

By Bernd Debusmann  
Reuter

SAN SALVADOR — A right-wing triumph in El Salvador's presidential elections has prompted speculation over who will be the real boss — president-elect Alfredo Cristiani or far-right Roberto D'Aubuisson.

A 41-year-old millionaire educated in the United States, Cristiani was named Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) president in 1985 to soften the party's image as an organisation associated with right-wing death squads that have murdered thousands of civilians suspected of left-wing sympathies.

But many analysts consider that party founder D'Aubuisson, a retired army major who has been accused in public of instigating death squad killings, remains ARENA's most powerful figure.

Cristiani won an absolute majority in the poll which turned ARENA into El Salvador's principal political force. The party's control now extends from parliament and most mayors' offices to the president's office.

ARENA's electoral advances over the past year sealed the gradual decline of the U.S.-backed

Christian Democratic Party and its leader, outgoing President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Despite Cristiani's victory by a margin much larger than predicted, diplomatic analysts here said it remained to be seen how much power he could wield once he takes office on June 1.

"If there were a showdown today between Cristiani and D'Aubuisson," said a Western diplomat, "there would be no doubt over its outcome. Cristiani would lose. Whether this would still hold true in six months or a year, no one knows."

Such uncertainties are shared

in Washington, which has

pumped around \$1.2 million a day into El Salvador to prop up its Christian Democratic allies

## Features

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1989 5

## China battles to save its environment

By Nancy Nash

CHINA — The Great Wall of China, a 2,000-kilometre-long, 2,000-year-old wonder of the ancient world, may have a rival by the year 2000: a Great Green Wall of forests crossing the country from northwest to northeast.

Architects in the central government and ministries responsible for environmental matters envisage a total of 53 million hectares of green protection from encroaching deserts and erosion, stretching through some 396 counties in 12 provinces.

Symmetry, as in the recurring numbers above, is admired in China. But the plan, repeatedly announced, is now received with widespread scepticism. Optimists, however, hope it will bear fruit. The trees are desperately needed, not only as barriers to dust and sand storms from the north, but also to increase the nation's forest cover, which now stands at a mere 12.7 per cent of China's vast territory.

In all, only 10.5 per cent of the land can be used for farming. The rest is too frozen or sterile, too high, or too exhausted. Intensely, but carefully, cultivated for centuries, soils have been degraded to a critical level only

within the past 150 years. The worst destruction has taken place since the 1960s, when the Mao Zedong era's radical agricultural policies joined forces with fast-growing, poorly planned and heavily polluting industrial development.

## Erosion

At best, with rational planning and use, a few farms may be able to duplicate the success of scarce "model" rice-growing areas in the south which now enjoy three rice harvests a year (instead of the usual two) without damaging soil fertility. About 1.5 million square kilometres of land — roughly one sixth of the total — is affected by erosion. In 1988 more than 11 million hectares of farmland, one tenth of the total sown acreage, suffered from severe drought. Another 7.5 million hectares of crops were flooded, and grain output has been dropping steadily, despite more land being put to the plough.

A grain exporter in 1985-86,

areas have turned into semi-deserts.

The Yellow River, known as "China's Sorrow," brings down in its waters the most silt of any river in the world. A great deal of this is dumped in the Yellow Sea, but much of it is deposited along the way, improving soil conditions and turning barren alkaline land into fertile fields.

Only when the river surges through the Loess Plateau does it become a torrent the colour of mud. Today, in many places, the Yellow River is an astounding 10 metres above the surrounding countryside. Dykes, requiring constant reinforcement, line its banks.

In all big cities, including the capital Beijing, sulphur dioxide and dust levels in the atmosphere surpass the norms set by the state. The most seriously polluted city in China — and perhaps the world — is Benxi. This city of more than one million inhabitants, situated in Liaoning Province, contains some 420 factories, half of which contribute to air pollution. Every year the city's factories pump 213,000 tonnes of smoke and dust into the air along with 87 billion cubic metres of polluting gases.

A few years ago Benxi simply

vanished from satellite photos, disappearing under a blanket of atmospheric pollution. It has yet to see the light of day.

## Pollution, pollution

Shanghai, one of the world's largest municipalities with more than 14 million people, not only suffers from air pollution but is also plagued with coastal pollution. Much of the city's municipal and industrial wastes are simply flushed untreated into rivers and shallow coastal waters.

Chinese rivers and lakes fare little better than coastal areas.

Some 34 billion tonnes of municipal and industrial wastes are flushed into China's rivers and streams every year. About 80 per cent is said to be discharged directly without any kind of pre-treatment. The Yangtze River, for example, in addition to being clogged with 500 million tonnes of silt, is also polluted with 13 million tonnes of municipal and industrial wastes. The cost of not treating solid and liquid wastes has been estimated at 2 billion yuan (\$350 million) a year.

At the bottom of China's environmental crisis is an acute lack of funds — currently only 0.6 per cent of the national budget is devoted to pollution control and

environment protection, and any real progress is unlikely until the market forces unleashed as part of the country's economic reforms are brought under control.

The eventual aim of reforestation efforts is to increase the country's vegetation cover to 30 per cent of the total land area. In order to accomplish this Promethean task, many different activities have been inaugurated. In 1981 an annual "Tree Planting Day" was established. Now every year on 12 March, civil servants, military dignitaries, representatives of work brigades, school children and pensioners throughout the country join together to plant seeds and seedlings along city streets, in parks, on river banks and on steep mountain slopes.

Rebuilding forests by aerial seeding is also a method particularly well suited to China's vast land mass, and poorly developed road system. But sowing seeds from the air has met with only mixed success.

The drawbacks to large areas of monocultures have been recognised and the fast-growing species of pine and acacia originally used for afforestation with increased precipitation in the dry season, reduced soil erosion and a halt to



broadleaf, arbour, shrub and grass species.

A highly lauded forest farm in Sichuan Province credits afforestation with increased precipitation in the dry season, reduced soil erosion and a halt to

the flooding of some 10 rivers in the region. Such successes, however, often come with high price tags: in this case some 170,000 hectares of air-seeded forest took 20 years of arduous work.

People features.

## Saint Laurent unveils glowing jewel box

By Michela Wrong

Reuter

PARIS — Fashion legend Yves Saint Laurent Wednesday unveiled a glowing jewel box of red, turquoise, green and pink in an autumn and winter collection that brought to mind the exotic masterpieces of Paul Gauguin.

Saint Laurent's ready-to-wear show had brocaded jackets in glistening azure, lime and apricot worn over glossy satin pants or lame sarongs ruthlessly slashed to the thigh and waist.

There were also formal velvet jackets in black, purple and bottle green embroidered with bright tongues of orange and yellow or splashed with glitter.

The bold colours and rich fabrics mirrored the strong palette of French expressionist painter Gauguin. An exhibition of the 19th century artist's works is currently drawing record crowds at Paris's Grand Palais.

Saint Laurent hijacked that staple of the male wardrobe, the tuxedo, and appropriated it for female use, worn short and sharp over slinky black skirts or loose satin trousers.

"Le smoking," as it is known in French, has always been a Saint Laurent speciality and it made a particularly strong showing in Wednesday's collection.

At the end the camera-shy Saint Laurent slouched clumsily onto the catwalk with his head bowed to receive his customary standing ovation from the crowd.

"It wasn't great, it was wonderful," said an admirer.

The collection by the man still widely regarded as the king of French fashion wound up eight days of ready-to-wear shows in the Louvre museum's courtyard, carefully monitored by buyers anxious to know what women will be wearing six months hence. Given the radically different styles seen on the catwalks, overall predictions are always hard to make. But fashion huffs agree the shows generally last year's trend to looser, casual clothes, replacing the angular outlines of the power-dressing executive woman.

The emphasis on hemlines, once a crucial fashion indicator, has been thrown to the four winds.

American designer Patrick Kelly showed sexy jersey dresses scraping the thighs. Japanese house comme des garcons' sack skirts fell to mid-ankle, while most of the other stylists favoured long midi skirts that look best on tall women.

Italy's Valentino and Frenchman Emanuel Ungaro went their own way with short, straight pencil skirts judged by many fashion experts not to be entirely in keeping with the times.

"In general the look is longer this year, although designers are compromising by offering a choice," said one buyer.

Many designers sidestepped the whole long-or-short debate by eliminating skirts altogether. West German Karl Lagerfeld and Japan's Issey Miyake offered clinging body suits or ribbed tops worn directly over woolly tights

showing as designers adapted to the practical needs of working women. But no one could accuse these outfitts of lacking femininity — loosely cut in soft fabrics, they looked as comfortable as pyjamas.

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Another idea many designers

ankles.

Long tailored jackets, tight at the waist and falling low over the thighs, were one of the season's highlights.

Another idea many designers

the waist. Its full length equivalent was also very popular.

The mundane scarf was also put to novel uses. Italian Romeo Gigli, whose first ready-to-wear show in Paris won rave reviews, fastened scarves tightly around the body while in other shows it was hard to know where the scarf ended and the coat began.

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## T.V. Guide

On Monday night on Channel 2 at 10:20, the 13th episode of the *Jewel in the Crown* will be shown. This week's episode is entitled "Pandora's Box." Special challenges take place to find out how Mervyn was killed. Britain decides to leave India to give it the freedom of self-determination by itself.

On Wednesday night also on Channel 2, at 16:20 a new mini-series entitled *Booker* will be shown. The series stars Shavar Ross, James Bond III and Levar Burton. The story of the struggle of the Blacks during the Civil War in America between the northern and southern states. It resulted in the liberation of the slaves and allowing them for the first time, to learn reading and writing.

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**STRIPES**

Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

**'No one wants another oil boom but  
no one wants another bust either'**

## **Oil price rises bring good news for Gulf Arab planners**

**DUBAI (R)** — Oil prices are strengthening at just the right time to lubricate the economies of major crude-producing states around the Gulf in 1989.

Regional economists said that while no one is betting on a sustained price rise, a rough average of \$17 to \$18 a barrel for the year would fit nicely into the planned budgets of states which rely primarily on oil for their revenues.

The New York oil futures market recently pushed benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery up 70 cents to \$20.05 a barrel and North Sea Brent, the most widely traded international crude, up 55 cents to \$18.50, the highest in 15 months.

Three months ago, oil analysts were looking for a 1989 average

peaked at around \$15 to \$16 a barrel. That extra \$1 or \$2 could, for example, put Saudi Arabia's planned 1989 revenue of 116 billion riyals (\$31 billion) well on target, said one Arab banker.

It could also help narrow Oman's projected \$1.1 billion budget deficit for this year, which the government cautiously predicted in January against a background of weaker oil prices.

Looked at from Iran's point of view, it could add as much as \$1 billion to government earnings in the fiscal year 1989/90, which started last Tuesday.

That is as much as Iran's government, which is seriously strapped

for cash, is allowing its energy ministry this year to borrow abroad to upgrade its inadequate national power grid.

The Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain — are in some need of calm after a roller-coaster ride through the 1980s, the economists said.

U.S. oil traders said oil rose because the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) looked to be sticking to its self-imposed oil quota of 18.5 million barrels a day, and non-OPEC producers looked set to support lower production.

"But there is still an overhang of supplies in the market and there is always a temptation to overproduce," said a research economist at a Gulf-based Arab bank.

Former Saudi oil minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani said this month that Iran and Iraq, both OPEC members, were likely to press for higher quotas later in the year to further boost revenues.

Oil analysts also noted that OPEC's long-term strategy was to take all extra world demand as it appeared to regain the market share it lost to non-OPEC producers in the 1980s.

Abu Dhabi Supreme Petroleum Council chief Sohal Farsi Al Mazrui told Reuters last week that OPEC could raise the quota ceiling to possibly 19.5 million barrels a day this year due to rising world oil demand.

Gulf International Bank chief economist Henry Azzam calculates that OPEC's share of the world oil market fell from 68 per cent in 1979 to around 40 per cent in 1987.

## **Top financial body tells governments to lend more to indebted Third World**

**WASHINGTON (Agencies)** — An international banking organisation has urged the governments of the creditor nations to play a greater role in resolving Third World's \$1.3 trillion debt burden.

The appeal was made by Horst Schulmann, managing director of the Institute of International Finance, in a letter to Onno Ruding, chairman of the International Monetary Fund's Interim Committee, and to B.T.G. Chidzero, chairman of the Development Committee, a joint body of the fund and the World Bank.

"Governments of the creditor countries must play a greater role in resolving the problems of the indebted countries," he said.

The Washington-based organisation represents banks in leading financial countries which have loaned heavily to the Third World.

**U.S. Treasury Secretary** Nicholas Brady will be the key figure at a meeting of 151 governments that starts this week. The meeting is expected to concentrate on the debt problem. It will be a regular joint session of the governments which own the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

William Brannigan, a spokesman for the World Bank, endorsed Schulmann's call for more aid from governments.

"We'd be very happy if the governments came through with more aid," Brannigan said Friday. "We've been urging them and supporting that, and they've been doing it for the poorest countries in Africa."

Schulmann praised Brady's speech March 10, which emphasised reduction of the debts owed to the banks.

"Secretary Brady drew attention to the need to combine voluntary debt and debt service reduction with an ongoing flow of new financing," he said.

"However, many commentators have placed undue priority on debt and debt service reduc-

## **Losses of U.S. savings and loan institutions amount to \$12b in '88**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The battered U.S. savings and loan industry lost \$12.1 billion last year and is facing a continued drain in 1989 from rising interest rates, the government has said.

The Federal Home Loan Bank Board, a government agency, said the nation's 2,949 savings and loan institutions lost \$2.3 billion in the fourth quarter, pushing red ink for the year well past the previous record of \$7.8 billion set in 1987.

The bank board said the heaviest losses continue to be concentrated in just a few institutions, with the 20 most-troubled institutions losing \$2 billion in the fourth quarter.

For the year, the 12 per cent of the industry that is insolvent lost \$14.8 billion, more than swamping the \$2.7 billion earned by solvent institutions.

Their losses have been building for a decade because of a combination of economic turmoil, uneven deregulation, sloppy government supervision and sometimes poor or fraudulent management.

The agency also said the number of insolvent institutions at year-end declined for the first time in the decade from 520 at the

end of 1987 to 364 at the end of 1988. That was the result of another post-depression record of 223 savings and loan closings and government-assisted mergers.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that creditors owed money by insolvent savings and loan institutions do not have to wait for a federal regulatory agency to act before they take the institutions to court.

In a significant victory for the thousands of creditors owed billions by failed savings and loan institutions nationwide, the court said federal courts may hear such lawsuits before any action is taken by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

James Barth, chief economist of the bank board, said rising interest rates in 1989 would be "obviously adverse, not good."

"Operating income should be lower across the board for all thrifts (institutions) in the first and second quarters," Barth said.

Much of 1988's red ink was old in the sense that institutions finally got around to recognising bad loans that had long ago gone sour.

Analysts are divided over how many more loan losses remain hidden in failed, but still open, institutions, but they are unanimous that it will be tougher than last year for the profitable segment of the industry to make a dollar.

The problem is interest rates. Savings and loans make their money by borrowing short-term, from depositors, and lending long-term, for mortgages and other purposes. When rates follow the normal pattern — high long rates and low short rates, institutions earn more on loans than they pay to depositors.

But currently short-term rates approach and in some cases surpass long-term rates, severely cutting into profitable thrifts' earnings.

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## **ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS**

### **Riyadh to finance Egyptian food imports**

**NICOSIA (R)** — Saudi Arabia is to pay for \$2 billion worth of food for Egypt, bankers in the kingdom said Friday. Bankers and diplomats said some state-owned banks had received instructions from Riyadh to start arrangements to finance the purchase of foodstuffs for Egypt. Arab aid to Cairo, burdened by a \$43 billion foreign debt, was cut when it signed a peace treaty with Israel 10 years ago. Saudi Arabia, like most Arab states, has now restored ties with Egypt. King Fahd sent three television broadcast microwave systems to Egypt last week after a fire damaged the top three floors of the Cairo television building and ruined equipment.

### **IMF approves Philippine's programme**

**MANILA (AP)** — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved an economic programme for the Philippines which paves the way for the approval of \$1.3 billion in new loans. Philippine Finance Secretary Vicente Jayne said Saturday. Jayne told reporters that with the approval, the country also can now prepare for talks with commercial banks set for April 10 in New York. The Philippines is expected to get \$900 million from the IMF's extended fund facility programme and \$400 million in contingency funds.

### **Soviet Union to lend China \$125m**

**PEKING (AP)** — The Soviet Union is to provide 200 million Swiss francs (\$125 million) in credit in the first Soviet loan to China since relations between the two countries soured in the late 1950s. The low interest credit will be used to modernise the Baotou iron and steel works in inner Mongolia's autonomous region, the official China Daily has said. China will purchase Soviet technology and equipment to improve production techniques of seamless steel tubes and railway tracks, the report said. The daily said steel output at the Baotou works will increase 10 per cent after the renovation. It said details of the loan were discussed during a recent visit by Soviet Ferrous Metals Industry Minister Serafim Vasilevich Kolpakov.

### **Eastern's woes benefit Continental**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Continental Airlines may have inherited some union unrest from strikebound sister Eastern airlines, but observers say the Houston-based carrier also has benefited from more routes, more passengers and more profits. Continental, despite a purportedly unrelated walkout by a few of its flight attendants, has moved to capture its share of travellers since the walkout by Eastern machinists and pilots crippled the Miami-based airline, driving it to file for bankruptcy court protection from its creditors.

## **De Beers hikes diamond prices by nearly 15.5%**

**LONDON (R)** — South African diamond empire De Beers has said its London-based marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), was raising its prices for roughgem diamonds by an average 15.5 per cent.

Industry sources say the CSO controls 80 per cent of world trade in rough diamonds, selling stones from the Soviet Union, Zaire, Australia and Botswana as well as for De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.

The increase, the fifth in three years, takes effect at the CSO's next sale, known as a "sight," on March 28.

Michael Oliver, a market analyst at London stockbroker James Capel, said: "De Beers must feel the market is resilient. It's confirmation things are going very well."

Andy Lamont, a spokesman for De Beers, said retail diamond sales in Japan, the second largest market after the United States, had been strong in 1988.

He said Japanese sales had not been depressed by the period of mourning following the death in January of Emperor Hirohito, as was initially feared.

The CSO held 10 "sights" a year at which about 150 customers representing diamond cutters in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, Bombay and New York, view and pay for gems they have ordered in advance.

The CSO, which last raised prices by 13.5 per cent in May 1988, sold rough diamonds worth a record \$4.17 billion last year, up by 36 per cent from 1987.

Britain's Office for Trading Standards is following up a monopoly complaint against the CSO lodged early this year by British mining giant Consolidated Gold Fields PLC (Coss Gold).

Coss Gold made the complaint in the midst of its campaign to fight off a hostile takeover bid from Minerals and Resources Corp Ltd (Minco), a Luxembourg-based offshoot of De Beers and its affiliate Anglo American Corp of South Africa Ltd.

De Beers and Anglo American are both controlled by South Africa's Oppenheimer family.

### **Weekly Amman Financial Market trading**

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 18, '89 and ending Wednesday March 22, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	4055	6488	1.600	1.600	1.000
Petra Bank	100	255	2.600	2.550	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	873	1788	2.050	2.040	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	5236	7600	1.520	1.450	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	15865	20757	1.340	1.290	1.000
Housing Bank	8493	16117	1.850	1.880	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	5325	12248	2.350	2.300	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1313	20045	15.200	15.300	5.000
Arab Bank	2690	379335	144.750	141.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	39352	100351	2.550	2.550	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	33589	72100	2.450	2.410	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	222418	444907	1.980	2.100	1.000
National Financial Investments	3467	3202	0.930	0.940	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	25	438	17.250	17.500	2.000
Bait Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	8372	8367	0.900	1.000	1.000



## Tension flares in Kosovo

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia (R) — Yugoslav police used tear gas and batons against demonstrators armed with clubs and axes in the southern province of Kosovo Saturday, the third successive day of ethnic Albanian riots.

I saw thousands of protesters rampage through the town of Urosevac hurling rocks, vandalising cars and blocking a train.

Armed riot police wearing gas masks chased demonstrators through the streets amid clouds of tear gas.

Airforce jets and helicopters screamed over the city, 240 kilometres south of Belgrade.

Some protesters jumped on car roofs and ripped off windscreen wipers. The demonstrators were ethnic Albanian men of all ages. There were few women.

It was the third day of rioting in Kosovo in protest at curbs on local self-rule adopted Thursday that give Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, control over the province.

The disturbances are the worst since Albanian separatist riots in 1981.

State leaders and a top army general warned Friday that "all constitutional means" would be used against further unrest, Yugoslavia's usual euphemism for troops.

Kosovo has been under a partial state of emergency for four weeks. Troops and tanks were sent in after a general strike by the province's majority ethnic Albanians against the curbs that they fear will wipe out their national rights.

Western diplomats in Belgrade said they believed the army sent in at least 10,000 men and 100 tanks when the emergency measures were declared.

The authorities are punishing ethnic Albanian strikers, saboteurs, shopkeepers and students for disrupting life in the province.

Official sources said hundreds

of miners and factory workers are being sacked or suspended without pay for refusing to work and some will be jailed for defying work orders.

Tanjug news agency said saboteurs had damaged the Goles magnesite mine near the Kosovo capital Pristina, 220 kilometres south of Belgrade, and legal action was being taken against them. It did not elaborate.

It said 25 Goles workers were ordered to serve 60-day jail terms for refusing to enter the pit.

Official sources said the Mitrovica zinc mines were also damaged and youths had tried to sabotage railway lines during the unrest.

They said 200 private shops in Kosovo's Pec district were ordered to close and padlocked by authorities. The owners faced fines for joining last month's strike.

Students who boycotted classes at Kosovo's university this week would be expelled or suspended or lose an entire year of academic credit.

Tanjug said most enterprises in Kosovo have resumed work but



strikes were continuing at Goles and some factories.

Under constitutional changes adopted by Kosovo's parliament Thursday, Serbia gains control of the province's courts, police, civil defence and selection of officials. It will also have a free hand to alter Kosovo's status in the future.

Serbia says Albanian nationalists persecute Kosovo's 200,000 Serbian minority with the aim of breaking the province away from Yugoslavia to join neighbouring Albania.

## U.S. on 'new course' in Central America

WASHINGTON (R) — A compromise accord between President Bush and congressional leaders has the United States government "speaking with one voice" on Central American policy after years of bitter debate.

The accord, signed by Bush and top Democratic and Republican lawmakers at the White House Friday, unifies the White House and Congress in support of a Central American peace plan aimed at achieving a political settlement in Nicaragua.

It also provides for continued U.S. humanitarian aid to the contra rebels at present levels — roughly \$4.5 million a month for food, clothing, medicine and

other necessities — until scheduled elections are held in Nicaragua next February.

In Managua, Nicaragua's Sandinista government said it was disappointed with the new funding, while Honduras, which has hosted thousands of contra forces, welcomed it but denied agreeing to allow them to stay until next year.

Bush and Democratic Party leaders hailed the agreement on an issue that had polarised Washington.

"Today, for the first time in many years, the president and the Congress, the Democratic and Republican leadership in the House of Representatives, are speaking

with one voice about Central America," Bush declared.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell told reporters the words of the agreement "place the United States squarely in support of the peace and democratisation process undertaken by the Central American presidents."

Mitchell, who with Secretary of State James Baker, House Speaker Jim Wright, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, House Democratic leader Tom Foley and House Republican leader Bob Michel stood at Bush's side, referred to a regional peace accord reached by the presidents in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

The presidents also agreed last month to the disbanding of the contras in exchange for pledges by Nicaragua to allow the rebels, most of whom are now in Honduran base camps, to return home and participate in free elections.

As part of the plan, the Managua government promised to release about 1,700 political prisoners.

"The United States is committed to working in good faith with the democratic leaders of Central America and Latin America to translate the bright promises of Esquipulas II into concrete realities on the ground," the agreement said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists at major U.S. laboratories are sceptical that a low-cost experiment could achieve nuclear fusion, the energy secret of the sun which has been sought for 20 years by researchers who spent millions of dollars.

But some experts admitted Friday they also are intrigued by the University of Utah reports and at least one expert warned that if the experiment actually achieved fusion, it could pose a serious

radiation hazard. Some scientists also expressed a bit of envy.

"Suppose you were designing jet airplanes and then you suddenly heard ... that somebody had invented an anti-gravity machine. That's the way we feel," said Ian Hutchinson, a nuclear fusion researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "And, of course, we're sceptical."

An Idaho laboratory announced Friday it was conducting experiments to confirm the Utah reports, and scientists at other laboratories said they were searching the literature to determine if others have performed the experiment. And all are waiting for more technical details expected to be published later this year in the journal Nature.

At a news conference Thursday, B. Stanley Pons, chairman of the University of Utah chemistry department, and Martin Fleischmann of the University of Southampton in England, said they achieved a sustained nuclear fusion reaction with equipment that is available in any college laboratory.

Pons said they were able to

force atoms to fuse together at room temperature using a rod of palladium metal and a platinum cylinder immersed in a flask of deuterium, a chemical commonly called "Heavy water."

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## Soviet Union holds rallies on eve of historic election

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet election campaign that unleashed impassioned public debate not seen in 70 years ended Saturday with nationwide rallies.

Sunday's election for a new-style parliament, offering voters a choice of candidate for the first time since just after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, marks a milestone in Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" reform plans.

But according to a Yeltsin aide interviewed by an Italian television reporter, the former Moscow party chief will not attend the rally.

"It is better to keep him out of the fray until the elections are over. That was suggested to us by various people," the Yeltsin aide said. He did not elaborate.

An unofficial poll by Soviet journalists suggests Yeltsin could win a resounding victory over the officially-backed party candidate for the Moscow seat in the New Congress of People's Deputies.

Yeltsin was ousted from the party's ruling Politburo in 1987 and stripped of his post as Moscow Communist chief for criticising the slow pace of Gorbachev's reforms.

Detonated by former colleagues, including Gorbachev, he now appears to be banking on California's fledgling citrus crop. A decade or so later, the U.S. Department of Agriculture imported some vedalia beetles, or Australian ladybugs, natural enemies of the scale in Australia, which didn't have problems with the cottony cushion scale.

Moscow has witnessed two fervent pro-Yeltsin rallies this week, with his supporters railing against the symbol of conservatism in the Politburo — Yegor Ligachev.

According to some reports, Gorbachev cancelled plans Friday to speak at Moscow University, where the walls are plastered with Yeltsin posters.

## COLUMN 8

### Best of the pests

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back in the 1870s, a destructive insect known as the cottony cushion scale arrived on the west coast from Australia and began sucking on California's fledgling citrus crop.

A decade or so later, the U.S. Department of Agriculture imported some vedalia beetles, or Australian ladybugs, natural enemies of the scale in Australia, which didn't have problems with the cottony cushion scale.

The coast guard said emergency crews were setting up booms to keep the oil out of protected areas.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said the tanker spilled 160,000 barrels of oil soon after the accident and later leaked another 100,000 barrels.

A department spokesman said the spill would cause environmental damage in the sound, which is rich in aquatic life.

"Something that big is going to cause damage. How significant it will be we don't know at this time," he said.

## Alaska oil spill potential nightmare for marine life

VALDEZ, Alaska (R) — A supertanker that ran aground has spewed millions of gallons of crude oil into the mouth of Alaska's Prince William Sound in U.S. history.

Officials said an oil slick spread over an area of 16 to 21 square kilometres posed a grave risk to marine life.

The U.S. coast guard said the Exxon Valdez went aground just after midnight Friday on a reef 35 kilometres south of this oil port, holding three cargo holds that spilled about 260,000 barrels — 11 million gallons — of crude.

"In U.S. history this spill is definitely the largest spill that we've ever had, whether from a tanker or well or from a pipe-

line," Richard Golob, an expert on oil pollution, told Reuters.

A spokesman for the 312-metre supertanker's owner, Exxon U.S.A., said "all the best technology we can find" was being assembled at Valdez to tackle the slick.

The massive spill posed an environmental nightmare to emergency clean-up crews, primarily because the area is easily accessible only from the air and sea and Prince William Sound has numerous pristine islands, channels, bays and icebergs.

"As a result the clean-up promises to be a potential nightmare as the spilled oil will undoubtedly wash ashore," Golob, publisher of the Golob Oil Pollution Bulletin,

tin, said in a telephone interview from his base in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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"Something that big is going to cause damage. How significant it will be we don't know at this time," he said.

## SDI satellite thunders into orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — U.S. military officials say a \$140 million satellite has been successfully launched for a crucial experiment aimed at designing space weapons for the U.S. "Star Wars" missile defence system.

The satellite was launched on an unmanned Delta rocket which thundered from its launch pad at Cape Canaveral air force station at 4:50 p.m. (2150 GMT) and arced east over the Atlantic, slicing a trail of fire and smoke across the sky.

The flight's main goal was to place in orbit a military satellite, dubbed Delta Star, to monitor a series of six U.S. launches in an effort to design space-based weapons capable of tracking and shooting down incoming enemy nuclear missiles.

Less than an hour after liftoff, military officials declared this first phase of the mission a success. "We have indication of a good, clean spacecraft (satellite) separation," launch commentator Skip Mackey said.

Air force Colonel Michael Rendine, manager of the Delta Star programme, said the three-ton satellite was operating flawlessly and had successfully completed its first task — tracking the fiery re-entry of the Delta rocket's second stage into the earth's atmosphere.

The satellite's timetable of six to nine months makes it the longest of three flights to be devoted to the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), popularly known as Star Wars, a programme initiated by former President Ronald Reagan to develop a U.S. shield against a nuclear missile attack.

The Star Wars mission blasted off nine days later than planned following a last-minute postponement March 15 due to technical troubles.

The launch came only three days after an unarmed Trident-II nuclear missile exploded four seconds after it was test fired from a submerged submarine off the Florida coast.

## THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson

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By Oliver Dunn

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